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HUANG, WEIBIN	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/570,181	WEI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	WEIBIN HUANG	2416	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *28 February 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-45* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-45* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *28 February 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *02/28/2006*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. **Claim 4** is objected to because of the following informalities: the acronym SNCP is not defined in the claim. The Examiner recommends defining SNCP in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

2. **Claim 34** is objected to because of the following informalities: the acronyms SDH, SONET, OXC, OADM, DXC and ASON are not defined in the claim. The Examiner recommends defining them in the claim. Appropriate correction is required

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chow US 7,289,428. Here is how the reference teaches the claims:

5. As per **claim 1**, Chow teaches a method for configuring interconnection between optical networks including a first network and a second network each including a plurality of nodes (**Chow figure 1 shows such method**), a first node of the first network

being connected with a third node of the second network and a second node of the first network being connected with a fourth node of the second network (**Chow figure 1, the nodes 12 and 13 (first and second nodes) of the network 10 (first network) are connected with the nodes 33 and 32 (third and fourth nodes) of the network 30 (second network) respectively**), said method comprising the steps of: (a) setting-up a first path between one of the first node and the second node and another node in the first network (**Chow figure 1, a path 15 (first path) between node 42 (another node in the first network) and node 12 has been set up in the network 10**); and (b) via the first path and at least one of the link between the first node and the third node and the link between the second node and the fourth node, setting up the path between said another node in the first network and another node in the second network (**Chow figure 1, a path between node 42 and node 31 (another node in the second network) has been set up, which is via the path 15, link 23 (link between node 12 and 33) and other paths or links**), wherein at least one of said first network and said second network is a mesh network (**Chow column 2 line 12-13**).

6. As per **claim 2**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein said another node in the first network is a source node or the destination node (**Chow figure 1 node 42 is a source node**), while said another node in the second network is a corresponding destination node or source node (**Chow figure 1 node 31 is a destination node**), and the path is from the source node to the destination node (**Chow figure 1 the path between nodes 42 and 31 is from the node 42 to node 31**).

7. As per **claim 3**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 2, wherein the first network is a mesh network and the second network is a ring network (**Chow column 3 line 28-31, the network 10 can be mesh network, and the network 30 can be ring network**), and the third node and the fourth node have drop-and-continue function (**Chow column 2 line 46-47**).

8. As per **claim 4**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of: if SNCP is used in the mesh network (**Chow figure 1, both of the networks 10 and 30 have connection protection (column 3 line 25-28). Since one of them is mesh network, that is the mesh network uses the subnetwork connection protection**), besides setting-up the first path, a second path is setup between said another node in the first network and one of the first node and the second node which is not used for setting-up the first path (**Chow figure 1, a path 18 (second path) is set up between node 42 and node 13 which is not a node of first path**).

9. As per **claim 5**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 4, wherein for a path from the ring network to the mesh network (**Chow column 3 line 28-31, the network 10 can be ring network, and the network 30 can be mesh network**), the first path and the second path is selected at the destination node to receive the path (**Chow figure 1 and column 2 line 63-64, the selector can be located at the destination node**); and for the path from the mesh network to the ring work, the source node transmits the path to the first path and the second path in parallel (**Chow figure 4 and column 7 line 1-3, the network 210 can be mesh network, and network 230**

can be ring network. The source node transmits data to the path 216 (first path) and path 215 (second path) in parallel).

10. As per **claim 6**, The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of: if the restoration scheme is used in the mesh network (**Chow figure 1 shows a restoration scheme and column 3 line 28-31, the network 10 can be mesh network)** , a restoring path is setup between said another node of the first network and one of the first node and the second node which is not used for setting-up the first path (**Chow figure 1, the path 18 is a restoring path which is between the node 42 and node 13 (which is not used for setting up the first path)**), wherein the node in the first network used for setting-up the first path is the primary node, and the node used for setting-up the restoring path is the secondary node (**Chow figure 1, the node 12 is primary and node 13 is secondary**).

11. As per **claim 7**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein the path transmitted from the ring network to the mesh network enters the primary node and the secondary node in the mesh network via the third node and the fourth node, respectively (**Chow figure 2 and column 4 line 65-67, the network 110 can be ring network, and network 130 can be mesh network. The transmitting path enters the nodes 112 and 113 (primary and secondary nodes) in the ring network, and via nodes 132 and 133 (third and fourth nodes) in the mesh network).**

12. As per **claim 8**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 7, wherein the path of the fourth node is routed to the third node (**Chow figure 2, element 136**), and the path selection is carried out at the third node (**Chow column 6 line 7-10**).

13. As per **claim 9**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein the path transmitted from the ring network to the mesh network enters the primary node and the secondary node in the mesh network via the fourth node and the third node, respectively (**Chow figure 2 and column 4 line 65-67, the network 110 can be ring network, and network 130 can be mesh network. The transmitting path enters the nodes 112 and 113 (primary and secondary nodes) in the ring network, and via nodes 132 and 133 (fourth and third nodes) in the mesh network).**

14. As per **claim 10**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 9, wherein the path at the third node is routed to the fourth node (**Chow figure 2, element 136**), and the path selection is carried out at the fourth node (**Chow column 6 line 7-10**).

15. As per **claim 11**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 7, wherein the path entering the secondary node is routed to the primary node (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 47-51, the data is routed from secondary node 113 to primary node 112 via path 118A**), and the path selection is carried out at the primary node (**Chow column 5 line 51-56**), and the path is transmitted to the destination node via the first path (**Chow figure 3, the primary node 112 transmits data to the destination node via the path 122 (first path)**), wherein the primary node and the secondary node have drop-and-continue function (**Chow column 5 line 3-4**).

16. As per **claim 12**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein after entering the third node and the fourth node, respectively (**Chow figure 2, data enter nodes 132 and 133 (third and fourth nodes) via links 122 and 123**), the path transmitted from the mesh network to the ring network is routed to the third node from

the fourth node (**Chow figure 2, the path is routed from the node 133 (fourth node) to node 132 (third node)),** the path selection is carried out at the third node (**Chow figure 2 and column 6 line 20-26**), and the selected path is passed to the destination node via the ring network (**Chow figure 2 and column 6 line 27-35, the node 132 sends the selected data set to the destination node 131 via the ring network 130**).

17. As per **claim 13**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 12, wherein the path enters the secondary node from the primary node in the mesh network (**Chow figure 1, the path enters the secondary node13 from the primary node 12 via link 16**), then enters the third node and the fourth node in the ring network via the primary node and the secondary node, respectively (**Chow figure 1, the path enters the nodes 33 and 32 (third and fourth nodes) via the nodes 12 and 13**).

18. As per **claim 14**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein after entering the third node and the fourth node, respectively, the path transmitted from the mesh network to the ring network is routed from the third node to the fourth node (**Chow figure 1, the path is routed from node 33 (third node) to node 32 (fourth node) via link 36**), the path selection is carried out at the fourth node (**Chow figure 1, the node 32 including a selector 40 to select the path**), and the selected path is passed to the destination node via the ring network (**Chow figure 1, the node 32 sends to selected path to the distination node 31 via link 35 in the ring network 30**) .

19. As per **claim 15**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 14, wherein the path enters the secondary node from the primary node in the mesh (**Chow figure 2, the path enters the secondary node 113 from the primary node 112 via link 116**), then

enters the fourth node and the third node in the ring network via the primary node and the secondary node, respectively (**Chow figure 2, the path enters the nodes 132 and 133 (fourth and third nodes) via the primary node 112 and secondary node 133**).

20. As per **claim 16**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 12, wherein the path enters the third node and the fourth node from the primary node of the mesh network (**Chow figure 1, the path enters the nodes 33 and 32 (third and fourth nodes from primary node 12 in the mesh network 10**).

21. As per **claim 17**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein the first path is associated with the backup path (**Chow figure 1, the path 18 is a backup path**), and the backup path is used as a working path when the first path falls into failure (**Chow figure 1, when the path 15 (first path) fails, the path 18 will become the working path**).

22. As per **claim 18**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein the setting-up scheme of the backup path is: when receiving a notification message from the destination node or the failure node and having confirmed the failure is in the mesh network, the restoration path selection is calculated in real time and the backup path is setup (**Chow figure 3 and column 6 line 27-35, the restoration path is calculated and set up immediately after a failure is detected)**.

23. As per **claim 19**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein the setting-up scheme of the backup path is: the backup path is pre-calculated (**Chow figure 3, the backup path (dashed line) is pre-calculated before failures**), and the backup path is setup when receiving the notification message from the destination node

or the failure node and having confirmed the failure is in the mesh network (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 46-49, the backup path 118 is set up immediately after a failure notification is received at node 111. The network 110 can be mesh network (column 4 line 66-67)**).

24. As per **claim 20**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein the setting-up scheme of the backup path is: the backup path is pre-calculated (**Chow figure 3, the backup path (dashed line) is pre-calculated before failures**), the resource required for setting-up the path is reserved in advance by signaling process (**Chow figure 3, the resource for the backup path is reserved in advance, and is used until failures occurred**), and the backup path is setup when receiving a notification message from the destination node or the failure node and having confirmed the failure is in the mesh network (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 46-49, the backup path 118 is set up immediately after a failure notification is received at node 111 in the mesh network),** wherein the resource is not allocated when reserving the resource in advance (**Chow figure 3, the backup path (dashed line) is not allocated when reserving in advance**).

25. As per **claim 21**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, the backup path is pre-calculated **Chow figure 3, the backup path (dashed line) is pre-calculated before failures**), the resource required for setting-up the path is reserved in advance by signaling process (**Chow figure 3, the resource for the backup path is reserved in advance, and is used until failures occurred**), and the backup path is setup when receiving a notification message from the destination node or the failure

node and having confirmed the failure in the mesh network (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 46-49, the backup path 118 is set up immediately after a failure notification is received at node 111 in the mesh network**), wherein the resource is allocated when reserving the resource in advance (**Chow figure 3, the backup path (dashed line) can be allocated to other source nodes when reserving in advance**).

26. As per **claim 22**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein for the path transmitted from the ring network to the mesh network (**Chow figure 3, the network 110 can be ring network, and network 130 can be mesh network (column 4 line 65-67)**), if the failure happens in the mesh network (**Chow figure 3 link 135 failed**), the destination node or other nodes in the mesh network which have detected the failure send a notification message about the failure to the primary node or the secondary node in the mesh network via signaling network (**Chow figure 3 and column 6 line 27-39**), having determined that the failure is located within the mesh network (**Chow figure 3, the link 135 in the mesh network 130 failed**), the secondary node initiates the restoration process and setup a backup path based on information on the backup path to restore the path (**Chow figure 3 and column 6 line 27-39, the secondary node 133 setup the backup path with received the failure notification).**

27. As per **claim 23**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein for the path transmitted from the mesh network to the ring network (**Chow figure 3, the network 110 can be mesh network, and network 130 can be ring network (column 4 line 65-67)**), if the failure happens within the mesh network, the failure will be detected by the primary node in the mesh network and the node at the side of the failure

node (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 43-56, the primary node 112 will detect the failures happen in the mesh network. The failures can be link or node failures (column 4 line 2). There may exist intermediate nodes between source node 111 and primary node 112 (column 5 line 21-22), therefore the failure may be happened at the intermediate, and the primary node 112 can be the node at the side of the failed intermediate node**), if it is determined that the failure is in the mesh network, a notification message will be sent to the source node via signaling network (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 43-56, the primary node 112 will detect the failures happen in the mesh network, and send a failure notification to source node 111 via link 118B**), and the source node will initiate the restoration process to setup the backup path to the secondary node for the path (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 43-56, the source node 111 will set up the backup path to the secondary node 113 after received the failure notification)**, the path of the backup path is selected at the secondary node through which the path of the backup path enters the ring network, therefore the path is restored ((**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 43-56, the secondary node 113 determines the path).**

28. As per **claim 24**,Chow teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein for the bi-directional path between the mesh network and the ring network (**Chow figure 3, the network 110 can be mesh network, and network 130 can be ring network (column 4 line 65-67. Any optical communication links can be bidirectional)**), if the failure happens within the mesh network, the failure will be detected by the corresponding destination node and the nodes at both sides of the failure node in the mesh network

which will determine that the failure occurs in the mesh network (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 43-56, the primary node 112 and source node 111 can detect the failures happen in the mesh network. The failures can be link or node failures (column 4 line 2). There may exist intermediate nodes between source node 111 and primary node 112 (column 5 line 21-22), therefore the failure may be happened at the intermediate, and the primary node 112 and source node 111 can be the nodes at the side of the failed intermediate node**), a notification message will be sent to the source node/destination node via the signaling network (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 43-56, the primary node 112 will detect the failures happen in the mesh network, and send a failure notification to source node 111 via link 118B**), the source node/destination node will initiate a restoration process for setting-up the backup path to the secondary node for the bi-directional path so as to restore the path (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 43-56, the source node 111 will set up the backup path to the secondary node 113 after received the failure notification)**.

29. As per **claim 25**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein both the first network and the second network are mesh networks (**Chow column 7 line 2, both networks can be mesh network**).

30. As per **claim 26**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the first networks are interconnected with a plurality of the second networks (**Chow column 1 line 35-37**).

31. As per **claim 27**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 25, wherein all of the first, the second, the third and the fourth nodes all have drop-and-continue function

and path selection function (**Chow column 2 line 48-49 and column 5 line 12-29, the primary and secondary nodes have the drop-and-continue functions. That is, all the first, second, third and fourth nodes have the drop-and-continue functions. And as show in figure 2, all these can select the paths**).

32. As per **claim 28**, Chow teaches an inter-network interconnection structure of optical networks (**Chow figure 1 shows such structure**), comprising: a first network having a plurality of nodes including a first node and a second node (**Chow figure 1, the network 10 (first network) having many nodes, which including node 12 (first node) and node 13 (second node)**); a second network having a plurality of nodes including a third node and a fourth node (**Chow figure 1, the network 30 (second network) having many nodes, which including node 33 (third node) and node 32 (forth node)**), the first node being connected with the third node and the second node being connected with the fourth node (**Chow figure link 23 connecting nodes 12 and 33, and link 22 connecting nodes 13 and 32**); a first path for connecting the first node or the second node with another node in the first network (**Chow figure 1, a path 15 (first path) between node 42 (another node in the first network) and node 12 has been set up in the network 10**); wherein the path communication is performed between said another node in the first network and another node in the second network via the first path and at least one of the link between the first node and the third node and the link between the second node and the fourth node (**Chow figure 1, a path communication is performed between node 42 and node 31 (another node in the**

second network. The path is via link 22 and 23), wherein at least one of said first network and said second network is a mesh network (**Chow column 2 line 12-13**).

33. As per **claim 29**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 28, wherein said another node in the first network is a source node or a destination node (**Chow figure 1 node 42 is a source node**), while said another node in the second network is the corresponding destination node or source node (**Chow figure 1 node 31 is a destination node**), the path is transmitted from the source node to the destination node (**Chow figure 1 the path between nodes 42 and 31 is from the node 42 to node 31**).

34. As per **claim 30**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 28, further comprising a second path setup between said another node in the first network and one of the first node and the second node which is not used for setting-up the first path (**Chow figure 1, link 18 is the second path which is between node 42 and 13**).

35. As per **claim 31**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 30, wherein the first path and the second path is selected at the destination node to receive the path (**Chow column 7 line 33-37**), and the source node transmits the path to the first path and the second path in parallel (**Chow figure 4, the source node 211 transmits the path to the link 216 (first path) and link 215 (second path) in parallel**).

36. As per **claim 32**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 29, further comprising a backup path setup between said another

node in the first network and one of the first node and the second node which is not used for setting-up the first path (**Chow figure 1, link 18 is the backup path setup between source node 42 and node 13**).

37. As per **claim 33**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 32, further comprising: a distributed control processing unit (**Chow figure 1, the node 12 including a DC unit**), which is located in or connected electrically with the respective nodes (**Chow figure 1, the node 12 including the DC unit is electrically connected with node 13**) and is used for setting-up the backup path based on different restoration strategies adopted by the first network (**Chow figure 1, the DC unit in the node 12 is for setting up the backup path based on the drop-and-continue function**).

38. As per **claim 34**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 29, wherein the node can be any of SDH/SONET node equipment, OXC equipment, OADM equipment, DXC equipment or ASON equipment (**Chow column 3 line 25, "SONET"**).

39. As per **claim 35**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 29, wherein the first network is a mesh network and the second network is a ring network (**Chow column 3 line 28-31, the network 10 can be mesh network, and the network 30 can be ring network**).

40. As per **claim 36**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 29, wherein both the first network and the second network are mesh networks (**Chow column 7 line 1-3, both networks can be mesh network**).

41. As per **claim 37**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 31, further including path selectors which are used for the selection of the first path and the second path (**Chow figure 1, node 32 including a service selection 40 which is used to select the data set (column 5 line 64-66)**).

42. As per **claim 38**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 9, wherein the path entering the secondary node is routed to the primary node (**Chow figure 3 and column 5 line 47-51, the data is routed from secondary node 113 to primary node 112 via path 118A**), and the path selection is carried out at the primary node, and the path is transmitted to the destination node via the first path (**Chow figure 3, the primary node 112 transmits data to the destination node via the path 122 (first path)**), wherein the primary node and the secondary node have drop-and-continue function (**Chow column 5 line 3-4**).

43. As per **claim 39**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 14, wherein the path enters the third node and the fourth node from the primary node of the mesh network (**Chow figure 1, the path enters the third node 33 and fourth node 32 is from the primary node 12 in the mesh network 10**).

44. As per **claim 40**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 2, wherein both the first network and the second network are mesh networks (**Chow column 7 line 1-3, both networks can be mesh network**).

45. As per **claim 41**, Chow teaches the method according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of the first networks are interconnected with a plurality of the second networks **Chow column 1 line 35-37**).

46. As per **claim 42**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 30, wherein the first network is a mesh network and the second network is a ring network (**Chow column 3 line 28-31, the network 10 can be mesh network, and the network 30 can be ring network).**

47. As per **claim 43**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 32, wherein the first network is a mesh network and the second network is a ring network **Chow column 3 line 28-31, the network 10 can be mesh network, and the network 30 can be ring network).**

48. As per **claim 44**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 30, wherein both the first network and the second network are mesh networks (**Chow column 3 line 28-31, the network 10 can be ring network, and the network 30 can be mesh network**).

49. As per **claim 45**, Chow teaches the inter-network interconnection structure according to claim 32, wherein both the first network and the second network are mesh networks (**Chow column 3 line 28-31, the network 10 can be ring network, and the network 30 can be mesh network**).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WEIBIN HUANG whose telephone number is (571)270-3695. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on (571)272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chi H Pham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2416
4/22/09

WH